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PETER MAGGIORE
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 7, 1999

To: LaDonna Walker (6SF-RA), Site Assessment Manager
Response and Prevention Branch
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VI

From: Maura Hanning, Manager *MH*
Superfund Oversight Section, Ground Water Quality Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department

Subject: Pre-CERCLIS Screen of North Main Ground Water, Las Cruces, NM
CERCLA/SARA Investigation Recommended

Site Name: North Main Ground Water **Street Address:** 1800/1900 blocks North Main Street

City: Las Cruces **State:** New Mexico **ZIP Code:** 88021 **County:** Doña Ana

Site Description:

In addition to petroleum constituents, chlorinated organic compounds and styrene were detected in soil and water samples collected during the investigations of leaking underground storage tanks (LUST) at 1835 and 1900 North Main Street, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Ownership:

The North Main Ground Water site consists solely of contaminated ground water with no identified source of contaminants. The existing monitoring wells are owned by the responsible parties of the respective LUST sites. Individual property owners have not been identified at this time.

Site Identification:

The North Main Ground Water site was referred to the Superfund Oversight Section by the New Mexico Environment Department, Underground Storage Tank Bureau.

100004430



Site Summary:

During the LUST investigation at Scott's Auto Sales, 1835 North Main Street, 47 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ of 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane (1,1,2,2-TCA) and 30 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ dichlorobenzene were detected in a soil sample collected from below the water table while installing a monitoring well, MW-1. Neither 1,1,2,2-TCA or dichlorobenzene were detected in a water sample collected from well MW-1. Water samples collected from wells MW-1 and MW-2 at this site contained 200 $\mu\text{g/L}$ and 140 $\mu\text{g/L}$ of styrene respectively. Subsequently, ground water samples were collected at the BAR F #22 LUST site, 1900 North Main Street, and analyzed for volatile organic compounds. Low concentrations, 1.5 to 2.2 $\mu\text{g/l}$, of 1,1,2,2-TCA were detected in water samples from three monitoring wells at this site. A water sample from another monitoring well at this site contained 1.8 $\mu\text{g/l}$ of tetrachloroethylene also referred to as perchloroethylene (PCE). Gasoline constituents and additives including benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylenes, and ethylene dichloride (EDC) were also present in soil and water samples collected from both of the LUST sites. The petroleum releases at these LUST sites are actively being regulated by the Underground Storage Tank Bureau. Dichlorobenzene, PCE, styrene, and 1,1,2,2-TCA are not gasoline constituents or additives and the release of these substances is not being investigated by any other state or federal authority.

File Review:

New Mexico Environment Department's Drinking Water Bureau, Ground Water Quality Bureau, and Underground Storage Tank Bureau files or databases were reviewed.

Potential Responsible Parties:

Potential responsible parties have not been identified because the source(s) of contaminants has not been identified.

Site Reconnaissance:

Dana Bahar and christopher holmes of the Superfund Oversight Section reconnoitered the site on 23 June 1998.

Targets:

According to the references in the Preliminary Assessment Report for Las Cruces PCE, CERCLIS number NM0002271286, one municipal well is located within 1 mile of the North Main Ground Water site and three municipal wells are located between 1 and 2 miles of the North Main Ground Water site. If the population of Las Cruces is apportioned to each well as prescribed by the Hazard Ranking System, each municipal well is assumed to serve 2,425 people. According to the references in the Site Inspection Report for Las Cruces Transformers, CERCLIS number NMD981918014, seven small community water supply wells are also within 1 mile of the North Main Ground Water site.

Recommendation:

The available analytical data indicates that CERCLA hazardous substances may have been released to ground water. To determine if a release has occurred, the Environment Department recommends that water samples be collected from existing monitoring wells and analyzed through EPA's contract laboratory program as part of an integrated assessment. The Environment Department requests that this site not be added to CERCLIS at this time because other sites with Level 1 contamination in drinking water supply wells have been identified and should be addressed soonest. The Environment Department will submit a site discovery form when staff resources are available to address this site.